

Dear Sirs:

The public airwaves are exactly that: for the public. I know that Chairman Powell believes that the media is a marketplace, but it's rapidly becoming dominated by six corporations. This is not free market competition and the proliferation of ideas.

I am a graduate student and a TA. I tell my students to get their news from the newspapers because TV will not give them a nuanced picture, both sides of the debate. In the war with Iraq, the media did not discuss the issue with humility and concern, but instead rallied completely around the flag. This coverage was so biased that the BCC even protested it.

This will only worsen if you allow these corporations to buy up more types of media. Then, Fox could own all the radio, all the TV, and all the newspapers in Chicago, Biloxi, or Salt Lake City and lend their radical conservative bias to everything reported in that region. This is dangerous.

It is not surprising that these media conglomerates are not informing the public about the fact the FCC is considering lifting this law or the ramifications of that.

Finally, these corporations will not think about the ramifications of dominating markets. We all know this. Clear Channel owns 1200 radio stations; they dominate this market. They also have close ties to the president. The media must watch over the government and not be in bed with it.

This law must not be allowed to go through. Please keep the independence of the American media. Please do not allow these regulations to be removed. Once the damage is done, it's a lot harder to put the toothpaste back in the bottle.